

# HONORING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2018 THIRD DISTRICT EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

## HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, today I honor eleven individuals and businesses from Nebraska receiving the 2018 Third District Excellence in Economic Development Award.

Throughout the 75 counties of the Third District, entrepreneurs and innovators are working hard to grow opportunity in our state.

In May, I called for nominations for individuals, businesses, and organizations helping to strengthen Nebraska communities through innovation, hard work, entrepreneurship, and historic preservation.

The Hub of Burwell is currently owned by John and Melissa Schere. "The Hub" was originally built as a professional building in 1906 by Burwell-area entrepreneur H.J. Coffin. The building, the first in the area to be built of concrete block, was an early home of the Burwell Mercantile and Burwell Drug Company. This building served as an important part of the commercial center (or Hub) of Burwell until it was abandoned in 2003. The building was purchased by John and Melissa Schere in 2006, and joined the Register of National Historic Places the same year. Their goal was to restore "The Hub" to its status as a community center and to its original early 20th century purpose and aesthetic. Today, the Scheres are proud to provide a coffee and old fashioned ice cream soda fountain and retail space capable of hosting public meetings for community members of all ages.

Lukjan Metal of Sidney is a family owned and operated business which has been manufacturing high quality sheet metal pipe, duct, and fittings for the wholesale HVAC industry since February 1964. Opening their Sidney location in early 2017, the family-owned company is proud to provide 30 jobs currently, with plans to nearly double this capacity by 2021. The Lukjan family believed Sidney provided an excellent expansion opportunity which allowed their company access to the Denver market.

Blue Print Engines of Kearney was founded by Norris Marshall in the early 1980s in a rented garage. Blue Print Engines recently moved into a 150,000 square foot production and testing facility, and now employs over 100 people in the Kearney area. Having an attitude which "exemplifies Kearney," according to Kearney Mayor Stan Clouse, Mr. Marshall has quietly turned his passion for rebuilding high performance car engines into one of the largest crate engine manufacturers in the world, serving customers ranging in size from individual car collectors to NASCAR. Recently, Mr. Marshall has embarked on a new journey, training the next generation of engineers and craftsmen who will carry on his passion for the next several decades through his award winning collaboration with Kearney Public Schools.

LiteForm of South Sioux City, led by their founder, Pat Boeshart, has proven to be a committed, innovative economic and community partner in northeast Nebraska and the

greater Siouxland area. Their organization is committed to constructing extremely energy efficient buildings throughout the world, constantly seeking ways to improve the energy efficiency and construction techniques of their units. LiteForm also came to the rescue for the Siouxland area during the Missouri River flooding in 2011, providing needed resources and rebuilding support. Over the last several years Boeshart has developed an energy and resource efficient replacement for rebar called GlassBar, a non-rusting material which reduces cost and material weight.

The Urwiler Family of Ravenna, led by family matriarch Bea Urwiler and her late husband Richard, started Urwiler's Melon Patch out of a desire to share their abundant melon harvest with area residents and those driving down Nebraska's Highway 2. Though their son Robert, his wife Christie, their children Kody, Michaela, Kent, and his wife Sara have now taken lead of the Urwiler Melon Patch, they have never missed a season, and always remained committed to producing quality melons and vegetables dedicated to the Nebraska values of hard work, common sense, and fairness in their business. The Urwiler family took their entrepreneurial energy a step further and opened two additional businesses in the last 10 years in the Ravenna community. Christie and her daughter Michaela translated a baking and catering home-based business into a popular Ravenna-area breakfast establishment, "Christie's Kitchen." Knowing their business has succeeded because of their commitment to quality, they arrive by 2 a.m. every day to ensure their customers receive fresh-baked, and locally provided items every morning. Kent and his wife Sara opened Prairie Hills Wireless in 2013. Prairie Hills is an independent high-quality broadband provider. They now serve over 70 percent of the Ravenna community, and have the capacity to provide service to every community within a 20-minute drive of Ravenna. The Wireless Internet Service Providers Association (WISPA) recognized Kent as their 2017 Operator of the Year.

Larry Paulsen of Cozad has worked tirelessly for many years to create opportunities for others to be successful. These successes can be seen not only in his own business, Paulsen Incorporated, a construction/redi-mix company and one of the largest employers in the Cozad area, but in the downtown district of Cozad, local baseball fields, the chamber of commerce, community festivals, local museums, and many other places. Larry often purchases and renovates buildings in downtown Cozad to allow small businesses an opportunity to grow. He is also at every Legion baseball game, behind the grill, ensuring all the fans have enough to eat, and assisting with field preparation before and after the games. As an avid volunteer and promoter of Cozad who is committed to community service, Larry's actions have truly strengthened Cozad, Dawson County, and state of Nebraska.

The Anson Family of Grand Island—Charles, John, and Amos—is changing the landscape of Grand Island's downtown area. Renovating and giving new life to a historic building can be a daunting task, and is not for the faint of heart. This type of challenge takes vision, outside-the-box problem solving, patience, and public-private collaboration. Each of the Anson family renovations becomes a modern, up-to-date, multi-use center appro-

priate for business, retail, and upper story living while still paying tribute to the historic roots of the building. Current Grand Island businesses renovated by the Anson family include The Chocolate Bar, McKinney's Irish Pub, Tower 217, GIX Logistics, and Prairie Pride Brewing. In addition to their for-profit efforts, Amos lends his time and talents to the Grand Island area Habitat for Humanity and HEAR Grand Island.

Butler Professional Farrier School of Crawford is led by Dr. Doug Butler and his sons, Peter and Jacob. The internationally recognized Butler Professional Farrier School is committed to providing quality, intensive educational experiences to students and current professional farriers. Rooted in blacksmithing techniques dating back to medieval Europe when teaching horse shoe fabrication, the Butler family provides a 21st century educational experience focused on the health and viability of the horse and its feet as their primary concern. When asked what he appreciates about their profession, Butler has said, "there is a heritage in the craft, and I like this style for that reason. There is as much art as there is science; that's what I enjoy the most about it."

Central Nebraska Regional Airport of Grand Island was originally opened by the Grand Island Aero Company, organized by World War I pilot Floyd Thompson, on private land owned by H.O. Doc Woodward in 1919. Other than a stint as a U.S. Government training facility for the 6th, 502nd, and 376th Bombardment Groups during World War II, the Grand Island area airport has enjoyed a long history of local public ownership and commercial use. The facility is known today as the Central Nebraska Regional Airport. In 2016, it completed the construction of a \$14 million passenger terminal. When this terminal opened, its annual enplanement numbers exceeded 64,000 and its local economic impact rose above \$158 million. These numbers have only continued to rise. Today, the Central Nebraska Regional Airport rivals its eastern Nebraska counterparts for service and travel availability to support greater Nebraska's travel needs.

GROW Nebraska of Oxford was founded in 1993 as a dynamic, membership-based, non-profit entrepreneurial, service, and educational organization charged with helping small businesses build and expand economic capacity. This organization's mission is to provide education and training to individuals and small business owners across Nebraska, with an emphasis on economically depressed areas and to create sustainable economic development and marketing opportunities. Their goal is to connect Nebraska to the global marketplace through mentorship, classroom education, technical assistance in your place of business, e-commerce, wholesale and export guidance, professional marketing training, and much more. Members of GROW Nebraska number in the hundreds and include software company Hollman Media of Kearney, Pacha Soap of Hastings, a recipient of the Whole Foods Market Supplier Award for Outstanding Innovation, and Preferred Popcorn of Chapman, a 100 percent farmer-owned company whose product is sold in 70 countries worldwide for a total of more than one billion servings annually.

Main Street Beatrice has been a "Main Street" community since 1996, when a group of stakeholders came together over concerns about the future of their downtown area. Together, they worked to include Beatrice in the

Nebraska Lied Main Street program and the Certified National Main Street program. Main Street Beatrice provides guidance and resources to downtown businesses, building owners, and others by utilizing the National Main Street Program approach. The organization has grown by leaps and bounds in the last two years. Together with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Nebraska State Historical Society, Main Street Beatrice has been a leader in advocating for and sharing the message of the importance of utilizing available resources for historic preservation through training, awareness events, and community outreach. Beatrice was recognized by the National Register of Historic Places in 2016.

I am proud to recognize each of these award winners today, and I thank them for their many contributions to Nebraska.

**HONORING THE GREGORY J. HARRIS MILITARY COURTESY ROOM AT THE SYRACUSE HANCOCK AIRPORT**

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2018*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th anniversary of the Gregory J. Harris Military Courtesy Room (MCR) at Syracuse Hancock International Airport.

Founded in 2008 by two TSA agents who grew tired of seeing soldiers sleeping on the floor of Syracuse's Hancock Airport, the MCR was developed to provide a place of refuge for soldiers awaiting flights. Since its inception, the MCR has aimed to provide traveling soldiers with a bit of home comfort. Fitted with amenities including a kitchen and lounge chairs for relaxation, the MCR has serviced hundreds of soldiers and has hosted everything from nervous recruits anticipating basic training to marriage proposals.

As our servicemen and women, including the many brave men and women serving our nation at Fort Drum and at the 174th Attack Wing at Hancock Field, travel through Syracuse I believe that they deserve nothing but our utmost respect and gratitude. For this reason, I applaud the MCR organizers and volunteers as they work tirelessly to ensure that the MCR is a home away from home for soldiers in transit.

While serving in Congress, I will continue to do everything in my power to show my appreciation for the men and women serving our country by working to ensure that they receive the treatment and benefits they deserve.

Today, I am proud to honor the Gregory J. Harris Military Courtesy Room for celebrating its 10th anniversary and hope that we will continue to support those who have made significant sacrifices while serving this country.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. BETO O'ROURKE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2018*

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber on Mon-

day, July 16, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call vote 329 and "yea" on Roll Call vote 330.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2018*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 366, and YEA on Roll Call No. 367.

**TRIBUTE TO JOHN "JACK" FRANCIS LYNCH**

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2018*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this spring the Fifth District of Maryland lost an extraordinary advocate for the men and women of our Armed Services and for America's naval engineering at the Pax River Naval Air Station. John 'Jack' Francis Lynch of St. Ingoes, Maryland, which is in St. Mary's County, passed away on May 18 at the age of eighty-five. Jack spent his career at Pax River, first as an engineer, then as Technical Director, and later as part of the private sector and as an early leader of the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance and the Patuxent Partnership.

When he arrived in Southern Maryland in 1955, Jack began a career that would see him become one of the most influential individuals in the history of Pax River and the region. When he became Technical Director at Pax River in 1979, he realized that the installation was at a disadvantage compared to other major military installations around the country. That was something Jack would not abide. Pax River needed more engineers, so he went to Washington and asked that they be hired. He got what he asked for. Pax River had no on-site offices in Washington, so Jack made the trip to the Pentagon over and over again to lobby military leaders on its behalf. By the time he retired from government service in 1986, Jack had completely transformed the way engineers at Pax River trained and worked.

After leaving government service, Jack joined Mantech International until 1999 and continued to devote himself to Pax River and those who serve there throughout that time and after. In the early 1990's, Jack and I worked closely together and with other state and local leaders to secure funding to build an anechoic chamber at Pax River for the precision simulation of aircraft dynamics, the first of its kind in the world. We also worked together to ensure that Pax River benefitted from consolidation during the 1996 BRAC round, which helped make Southern Maryland the hub for aerospace development and testing it is today and a center for American engineering. Much of these achievements were the result of Jack's efforts to bring stakeholders together into the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance. Later, he led the Patuxent Partnership, which was also instrumental in growing Pax River and its critical role in naval aviation.

I will miss Jack Lynch, not only for his devotion to Southern Maryland and to a strong Navy but also for his optimism and determined spirit. I hope my colleagues in the House will join me in thanking Jack for his service to our country and in expressing my condolences to his wife Patricia Ann "Trixie;" their son Thomas and daughter-in-law Susan; their son Paul and daughter-in-law Kimberly; their son Patrick and daughter-in-law Kathy; and their ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. May Jack's memory bring them joy and comfort, as it surely will inspire all of us in Southern Maryland to carry on the work he cherished.

**IN CELEBRATION OF MRS. ROBENA GAINES-FLAKES**

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2018*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations and Happy Birthday wishes to a phenomenal woman of God, dedicated educator, and beloved role model, Mrs. Robena Gaines-Flakes, who will be celebrating her 83rd birthday on Saturday, August 18, 2018. On this day, there will be a celebration at Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church located at 222 Fifth Street in Columbus, Georgia.

Mrs. Robena Gaines-Flakes was born in Phenix City, Alabama in 1935. After graduating from South Girard High School, she went on to study Early Childhood Education at Morris Brown College and Columbus State University.

Mrs. Flakes is a loving mother to her children and was a supportive wife to her late husband, Rev. Dr. J. H. Flakes, Jr., and compassionate first lady to his congregations at Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia and Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Phenix City, Alabama. Together they used their deep and abiding faith in the Lord to make a tremendous impact on their community. Their son, Rev. J. H. Flakes, III now pastors over Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church and previously pastored over Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

Mrs. Flakes is also the Founding Director of the Fourth Street Daycare Center (now the Robena Gaines Flakes Daycare which was established in 1993. During her tenure as Director, the center expanded its roster (from 56 children to over 150 children daily), facility, and programs and services (to include an after-school program for elementary school students). It was also the first daycare to receive the "Center of Distinction Award" from the state of Georgia. She served in this capacity for 12 years until she retired as Director in 2005 and went on to serve as a Consultant.

Mrs. Flakes has received several accolades and awards for her work with the youth. These awards include the Rosa Parks Women of Courage Award from the Gamma Tau Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Gracious Ladies of Georgia Award.

Mrs. Flakes has accomplished many things in her life but none of these would have been possible without the grace of God and the love and support of her late husband, their children, Reverend J. H. Flakes, III, Merle J.